HIBISCUS IN CALIFORNIA - Joe Staniford

I'm afraid I'm not really qualified to write you a little "story" re Hibiscus culture in this area, but will try to pass on a few observations which may have some value. Ross Gast is of course our expert, which does more than make up for the fact that most of the old-timers who played around with Hibiscus in this area, have dropped out, lost interest, or what not.

Basically, judging from what I pick up and from reading the Seed Pod, I would imagine, without knowing Florida, that local conditions would be similar to Northern Florida, getting more like Central climate to the coast, and possibly approaching Southern Florida if you got far enough down into Baja California, with two important Exceptions:

1 - Around Southern California (L.A. & vicinity at least) our nights are (with spasmodic exceptions of short duration) considerably cooler than days and therefore we do not get the benefit of "night growth" which is so advantageous to Hibiscus at least, both in Florida and the Islands.

2 - Our rainfall is very sparse, not quite 6" this year and usually what we do get is all at once.

Fogs along the beach and more even temperatures do help out in the coastal areas and there is a decided difference in size of bloom etc. between San Diego and Los Angeles in this respect Hibiscus seem to have about the same characteristics as the Bougainvilleas, for example, the white variety will at least bloom in the San Diego area while (with protection but no hot house) it's all I can do to keep mine alive.

Baja, if it had water, would be ideal and in a few places where they have received some attention, Hibiscus really go to town. On the other hand I have noted a few dust-covered Peachblow and Brilliant that have hung on for years with no apparent water except annual rainfall, which is even less than ours. In this connection I have noted that it takes a ground planting at least 3 years to get established (L.A.

Continued on page 19

PLEA FROM NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Burt Barling, chairman of the Nomenclature Committee, needs help. If you can give him good descriptions on any of the following please do so and drop your description in the mail to him at Rt #3, Box 683, Orlando, Florida. This is needed for the new supplement that is in the works.

Cathy, Cinderella, Colleen Clayton, Golden Dent, Golden Charm, Golden Glory, Hales Blue, Kanaka Girl, King's Crimson, Martha Francis, Mary Estrella, Mrs. Von Kleinschmidt, Richard Dewey, and September.

-0-

* *

MONROE'S HIBISCUS NURSERY

783 Central Avenue Eagle Lake, Florida

SOME GOOD HIBISCUS
SOME BAD HIBISCUS
SOME IN BETWEEN HIBISCUS

Ten percent discount to AHS members.

* * * * *** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *** * * * *

Detach here

* *

Please enter my subscription for Tropical Living, Homemaker and Gardener for a period of:

One year ($2.00)_____ Two years ($4.00)_____

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Check here if this is a renewal order_____

Mail to: James E. Monroe, Box 25, Eagle Lake, Florida